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**1991/03/18**

RELEASED IN PART  
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INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 OF 07 ATHENS 03077 00 OF 03 181607Z 2249 EAP946Z  
ACTION EUR-00

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2249 EAP946Z

INFO OCT-01 AMZ-02 [M-02] IMBS-02 J-06 N-03 PHL-03 TO-02  
IC-01 VLG-02 EP-02 P-01 RA-01 EAP-01 CONG-01  
/034 A3 DOR

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AIT-03 CIAE-00 OODE-00 DPR-01 EAP-00  
NA-03 H-01 IMRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 OIC-02 ONB-01 PA-01 PH-00 PRS-01 P-02  
SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIC-00 /D51V  
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R 181602Z MAR 91  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4053  
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AIT TAIPEI 0012  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
EC COLLECTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 03077

FOR: EUR/SE, EUR/VE, EAP/C, EAP/K, EAP/J, EAP/MLC,  
EAP/ALT, EAP/IMBS, EAP/RA, IO/UNP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: GR, CN, TM, RS, KH, JA, CB, UNGA, ASEAN, EC, PREL  
SUBJECT: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO GREECE:  
ENDING EC FENCES

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY:

2. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN, AS PART OF  
HIS FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE SINCE THE JUNE, 1989  
TIANANMEN INCIDENT, VISITED ATHENS MARCH 6.

QIAN IN ATHENS

PRC FOREIGN  
MINISTER QIAN QICHEN'S VISIT TO ATHENS ON THURSDAY,  
MARCH 8--THE FIRST VISIT HERE BY A CHINESE FOREIGN  
MINISTER IN SOME YEARS, AND QIAN'S FIRST TO EUROPE  
SINCE THE JUNE, 1989 TIANANMEN INCIDENT. QIAN MET  
WITH PRIME MINISTER MITOTAKIS, PRESIDENT KARAMANLIS,  
AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAMARAS.

THE CHINESE EMBASSY HERE CIRCULATED A COPY OF A  
SPEECH BY QIAN IN MADRID, PRAISING THE GOS FOR  
ITS COMMITMENT TO BETTER RELATIONS AND  
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PRC'S RELATIONS WITH THE  
EC NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

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THE GOC'S DECISION LAST YEAR TO UPGRADE ACCESS  
FOR THE TAIWAN MISSION, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS BASED  
STRICTLY ON THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING TRADE AND  
INVESTMENT.

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SOTIRHOS

AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PRIME

MINISTER MITSOTAKIS, QIAN TOLD REPORTERS ONLY  
THAT CYPRUS, AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDEAST,  
SHOULD BE SETTLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN  
RESOLUTIONS. TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE, QIAN SHOWED  
A SIMILARLY DETACHED ATTITUDE, COMMENTING ONLY  
THAT THE REGIONS' PROBLEMS STEMMED FROM ERRORS  
IN CARRYING OUT REFORMS I.E., NOT FROM THE  
COMMUNIST PAST.

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11. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH QIAN,  
SAMARAS NOTED THAT GREEK-PRC TRADE HAD REACHED  
"A RECORD LEVEL" OF DOLLS 118 MILLION A YEAR, AND  
SAID HE HAD ASKED QIAN TO TAKE MORE GREEN  
EXPORTS.

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ATHENS SPIN-DOCTORING  
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12. MOST PAPERS REPORTED QIAN'S VISIT, THOUGH  
THE COVERAGE REFLECTED GREEKS' LOW LEVEL OF

INTEREST IN CHINA. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEW  
AGENCY (ANA) CAST IT AS A DIPLOMATIC  
ACCOMPLISHMENT; ANA'S DAILY BULLETIN BANNERED,  
"VISITING CHINESE MINISTER BACKS GREEK STANCE ON  
CYPRUS SOLUTION." REPORTING SAMARAS AND QIAN'S  
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, ANA QUOTED PRAISE BY  
SAMARAS FOR THE PRC AS "ALWAYS AT OUR COUNTRY'S  
SIDE" ON CYPRUS IN THE UNSC, BUT DID NOT MENTION  
WHAT IF ANYTHING QIAN SAID ON THE SUBJECT

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COMMENT  
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13. GREEK INTEREST IN CHINA AND OTHER LYOTIC  
PLACES IS LARGELY LIMITED TO PRACTICAL MATTERS.

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